GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1181
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2001
ENVIRONMENT CLEARANCE TO NTPC AND NHPC
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a huge time gap between conceiving the Project and its implementation for want of forests and environment clearance both under NTPC and NHPC;

(b) if so, the details thereof, project-wise since 1980;

(c) whether due to such undue delays results in Cost Escalation of the projects besides delay in implementation; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to minimize such delays?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA)

(a) & (b) : Yes, Sir. The details of time taken in environment and forest clearance of projects under National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) are as follows :

Name of the Project Approximate period involved in getting clearance (in months)

	Environment Clearance	Forest Clearance
A. NTPC		
Talcher I	24+	-
Rihand-II	51++	-
Kahalgaon-I	19	-
Vindhyachal-II	26++	-
Farakka-III	7	-
Anta-II	15	-
Faridabad GPP	14	-
Talcher II	20	-
Ramagundam-II	11	-
Kawas-II	13	-
Sipat I	21	2
Auraiya II	9	-
Gandhar II	11	-
Dadri Gas II	5	-
Dadri Gas I	5	-

+ Environment clearance was mainly held up pending finalisation of acceptable plan for Rehabilitation and Resettlement and the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF) insisting for forest clearance for the forest land involved.

++ Considering the sensitive nature of the Singrauli region, several important environmental issues related to ambient air quality, ash disposal area (specially in view of involvement of submergence of land of Govind Ballabh Pant Sagar, R&R, water quality, consent of UP Government for transfer of submergence land for ash disposal etc. were considered in details by MOE&F.

B. NHPC		
Chamera I	9	20
Tanakpur	3	15
Rangit	3	21

Dhauliganga	37	18
Kol Karo	-	48
Teesta-V	15	15

(c) : In case of NHPC projects, such delays results in cost escalation of the projects.However, in case of NTPC projects, time taken for environment and forests clearance has generally not resulted in cost escalation and delay in implementation of the projects.

(d) : To get environment and forests clearance for various projects in time, the matter is closely followed up with the concerned authorities in State Governments and Ministryof Environment and Forests. Inter-Ministerial meetings with MOE&F are also held to expedite such clearances. As decided by the Ministry of Power, NTPC proposes to createa Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for undertaking project related environment protection activities. Creation of Forest Bank envisaged through this SPV may reduce the time for identifying area for compensatory afforestations required in lieu of forest land diverted for project construction and would thus accelerate environment and forest clearance of projects. During discussions in the Ministry, NHPC has also indicated its willingness to join the proposed SPV.